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Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 H-01 INT-05 OMB-01 FCSC-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /086 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:E M FEATHERSTONE:EH
APPROVED BY EA/J:N PLATT
EA/ANP:W BODDE
OMSN:J BERG (INFO)
L/UN:D STEWART (INFO)
H:D KENNEY (INFO)
----------116931 050505Z /14
P 050159Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO CINCPACREP GUAM TTPI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087098

PLEASE PASS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TQ, JA, US

SUBJECT: MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS

REF: (A) STATE 77177 AND PREVIOUS; (B) 77 STATE 246960
(C) TOKYO 4483

1. COUNTRY DIRECTOR MET WITH POL COUNSELOR ARIMA AFTERNOON APR 3 TO REVIEW AND CLARIFY RECENT EXCHANGES CONCERNING POSSIBLE VISIT TO JAPAN BY MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS DELEGATION. AFTER DESCRIBING US FOREIGN POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES TO MICRONESIA AND IMPORTANCE OF ONGOING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS, COUNTRY DIRECTOR MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:
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(A) THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN USG POSITION THAT JAPAN BEARS NO FURTHER LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS;

(B) ALTHOUGH US WOULD ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE ROUTING AND TIMING OF SUCH DELEGATION TO ACCORD WITH TOKYO'S NEEDS, IT

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WOULD BE EMBARRASSING AND DAMAGING TO OUR INTERESTS IF GOJ SHOULD REFUSE TO RECEIVE ANY PROPERLY-COORDINATED MICRONESIAN DELEGATION. USG WOULD BE PLACED IN POSITION OF HAVING FAILED TO GAIN ACCESS TO FONOFF FOR MICRONESIANS WHERE FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER HAD SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING

MICRONESIAN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER.

(C) OCTOBER 15, 1977 PRESS GUIDANCE (REFTEL B) CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN HAD NO FURTHER LEGAL OBLIGATION ON CLAIMS ISSUE, BUT IMPLICATION DRAWN BY OFFICIALS IN TOKYO THAT US COMMITED NEVER TO RAISE CLAIMS ISSUE AGAIN WAS NOT JUSTIFIED BY TEXT.

2. ARIMA REPLIED THAT GOJ NOW WELL SATISFIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY AND APPRECIATED CLARIFICATION AND USG EFFORT TO CONVEY GOJ POSITION TO MICRONESIAN LEADERS.

3. REGARDING GOJ REFUSAL TO RECEIVE MICRONESIAN DELEGATION ROUTED TO TOKYO FROM WASHINGTON, ARIMA DISCLOSED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY QUERIED MOFA ON THIS POSITION, POINTING OUT DIFFICULTIES SUCH A STANCE WOULD CREATE FOR USG. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED NO SPECIFIC RESPONSE, ALTHOUGH MOFA HAD ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF HIS CABLE AND HAD EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS AND FOR DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS. ARIMA, CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMITTED THAT GOJ RECOGNIZED LIMITATIONS OF US CONTROL OVER MICRONESIANS AND RECOGNIZED GREAT IMPORTANCE OF ONGOING STATUS NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASSURED US THAT GOJ WOULD "DO ITS UTMOST TO HANDLE ANY DELEGATION IN A WAY WHICH WOULD NOT EMBARRASS THE USG OR CREATE PROBLEMS IN THE STATUS NEGOTIATIONS." COUNTRY DIRECTOR STRESSED THAT US "FACILITATION" OF SUCH VISITS DID NOT MEAN USG SUPPORT OF MICRONESIAN POSITION.

4. ARIMA RECOGNIZED THAT LAST OCTOBER'S PRESS GUIDANCE (REFTEL B), IN NO WAY COMMITTED US NEVER TO RAISE SUBJECT AGAIN AND STATED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF THIS AT THE TIME THE GUIDANCE WAS ISSUED.

5. COUNTRY DIRECTOR REAFFIRMED THAT WE HAD MADE GOJ POSITION CLEAR TO NAKAYAMA/HENRY AND THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO WITH OTHER MICRONESIAN LEADERS,BOTHHERE AND IN TTPI. HE MENTIONED THAT WE HAD ALSO REQUESTED DELAY IN DISPATCH OF ANY WAR CLAIMS DELEGATION TO TOKYO UNTIL AFTER FUKUDA VISIT, BUT THAT WE HAD NO GUARANTEE AS TO HOW MICRONESIANS WOULD REACT.

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6. COUNTRY DIRECTOR TOLD ARIMA THAT MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT PROJECTED GOJ AID PLANS FOR MICRONESIA WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL. ARIMA RESPONDED THAT HE HAD ALREADY QUERIED TOKYO AND WOULD PROVIDE DATA WHEN RECEIVED.

7. ARIMA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD BEEN TO SEE CONGRESSMAN BURTON, SENATOR JOHNSTON (AUTHORS OF SECTION 105), OTHER STAFFERS ON HILL AS WELL AS OMB IN REGARD TO WAR CLAIMS ISSUE. HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT SENATE WAS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF GOJ POSITION AND THAT THERE WERE ONLY SMALL NUMBER IN HOUSE REALLY INTERESTED IN CLAIMS ISSUE. COUNTRY DIRECTOR REMARKED THAT NUMBER MIGHT BE SMALL, BUT THAT SOME PROPONENTS OF RAISING CLAIMS ISSUE WERE POWERFUL, PARTICULARLY CONGRESSMAN BURTON. VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3064457
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Subject: MICRONESIAN WAR CLAIMS
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, TQ, JA, US
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